

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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50 ARRESTED BY ABC INVESTIGATORS AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

San Marcos – Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and several local law enforcement agencies arrested 50 people in an undercover operation targeting violations of State liquor laws.

A total of 55 officers and investigators from law enforcement agencies in North San Diego County did a check of over 130 bars, restaurants, and stores this past Friday night, March 5th, looking for violations of State liquor laws. The objective of the operation was to target ABC licensed premises that have been creating problems for local law enforcement agencies in the North County area.

A total of 40 citations were issued for a number of illegal activities, including alcohol sales to minors, minors in possession of alcohol, and drinking in public. Seven persons were arrested for drunk in public, two arrests for DUI, and one arrest for possession of a controlled substance for sale.

The San Marcos District Supervisor for the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Leslie Corona, said the number of citations were down from prior task force operations conducted in the North San Diego County area. Corona said, "The reduction in the number of citations indicates that most licensees are doing a better job of checking for false I.D.s and not serving intoxicated patrons."

Agencies involved in the sweep were Oceanside, Carlsbad, Escondido and San Diego Police Departments, the San Diego County Sheriff's stations in Encinitas, Poway, San Marcos and Vista, and Officers from Cal State University San Marcos. Along with the ABC Investigators from the San Marcos District Office, ABC Investigators from the San Diego District Office and the Department's Special Operation Unit assisted in the operation.

Those businesses cited will face administrative action by ABC. This may involve a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or in the most serious cases, the total revocation of the license.

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